United Nations A/60/872

General Assembly

Distr.: General
2 June 2006

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Sixtieth session
Agenda items 12 and 32

Prevention of armed conflict

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Letter dated 1 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit the statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia on comments made by an official spokesperson of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation on the current situation in Tskhinvali District/Former Autonomous Region of South Ossetia, dated 1 June 2006 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda items 12 and 32.

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-37281 (E) 070606

Annex to the letter dated 1 June 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia on comments made by an official spokesperson of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation

A large-scale anti-Georgian campaign carried out within the last few days in Russia achieved its culmination. This is particularly obvious against a background of undisguised threats against Georgia coming from the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation.

Attempts to disorientate the international community were suspiciously activated within a period previous to the donors' conference planned to be held in Brussels. the implication is clear: the Russian side, accusing Georgia of attempts to renew provocative actions and armed resistance, is trying to suspend realization of the project for the economic rehabilitation of the Tskhinvali district, which represents one of the basic tools of confidence-building between the sides.

Speculations of the Russian side, related to the provision of visas to servicemen and the necessity of entering the territory of Georgia through the legitimate border checkpoints, are disgusting.

Serious inaccuracies in the comments made on 1 June 2006 by an official representative of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation compel us to give a detailed response to the accusations against the Georgian side.

At present, the only legitimate checkpoint, "Kazbegi-Zemo Larsi", is functioning at the Georgian-Russian State border. It was established in compliance with the provisions of article 1, paragraph 5, and article 5 of the Agreement on Checkpoints at the Customs Border signed by the Government of the Republic of Georgia and the Government of the Russian Federation on 8 October 1993. Therefore, any other checkpoints at the Georgian-Russian State border, including "Roki-Kvemo Zaramagi" are illegitimate.

At the same time, after the withdrawal of the Russian Federation from the Agreement on Non-Visa Movement of Citizens of the CIS Member States in the Territories of the Community (Bishkek, 9 October 1992), the visa regime was introduced between Georgia and the Russian Federation from 5 October 2000.

On 2 March 2001 Georgia and the Russian Federation, through an exchange of notes, concluded an Agreement which, on the basis of the 1 March 2001 Protocol of Negotiations on the Regime of Movement of Citizens of Georgia and the Russian Federation, prior to the signing of the Agreement on Movement of Citizens, determined the temporary rules on crossing the border for certain categories of citizens. This Agreement does not provide a non-visa regime for the presence in Georgia of citizens of the Russian Federation who staff the joint peacekeeping forces deployed in the Tskhinvali district/South Ossetia.

Therefore, taking into consideration the fact that an Agreement which grants certain privileges related to the border crossing rules to this category of citizens does not exist, the visa regime currently operating between Georgia and the Russian

Federation applies to the personnel of the joint peacekeeping forces in the Tskhinvali district.

Given the aforesaid, citizens of the Russian Federation who staff the joint peacekeeping forces are to obtain Georgian visas according to the rules established by international agreements and the legislation of Georgia and their entry to the territory of Georgia should be carried out only through the legitimate border checkpoints existing at the State border of Georgia.

The Georgian side, including the State Minister of Georgia for Conflict Resolution, Co-Chairman of the Joint Control Commission, G. Khaindrava, has repeatedly notified the Russian side on the aforesaid and proposed to hold negotiations with a view to creating a relevant legal basis.

Regrettably, the Russian side proceeds with disregarding the demands of the Georgian side and carrying out illegal unilateral actions in the Tskhinvali district/South Ossetia, which demonstrates that Georgia's aspirations for a large-scale political resolution are at odds with Russia's political plans.

Furthermore, if earlier the Russian Federation recognized Georgian territorial integrity and viewed the Tskhinvali district/South Ossetia as an integral part of Georgia, over which central jurisdiction does not apply temporarily, today, the official spokesperson of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation places a question mark, with respect to Georgia, over such major principles of international law as inviolability of territorial integrity, sovereign equality, non-interference in the internal affairs of States and fair fulfilment of international commitments.

With such statements the Russian Federation gives an outspoken indication that it is no longer a facilitator in the settlement of conflict in Tskhinvali district/South Ossetia and cannot exercise the impartiality which is an inherent part of this status.

Georgia agreed to the deployment of Russian peacekeepers in the conflict region on the sole condition that the Russian Federation would clearly and unambiguously recognize Georgia's territorial integrity. The official spokesperson of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation ought to be conversant with the fact that any revision of the principle of territorial integrity, in whatever form or style it is done, will alter substantially the essence of the peace operation and the status of the peacekeeping forces. besides, international law gives a clearly articulate definition of the deployment of armed forces on the territory of a sovereign State against its will.

It should also be noted that such attitude towards a neighbouring State and references to the principle of self-determination places under threat the territorial integrity of Russia itself, judging from Russia's historical experience.

The Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Georgia expresses a strong protest and calls upon the Russian side to refrain from unbalanced rhetoric and to accept a proposal on holding negotiations which will enable us to determine the route of movement for peacekeeping forces and bring the visa provision issues within the legal frameworks.

United Nations A/60/873–S/2006/363

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
6 June 2006
English
Original: Arabic

General Assembly
Sixtieth session
Agenda item 14
The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 5 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government, I transmit to you herewith a detailed statistical table showing the violations of Lebanese sovereignty committed by Israel during the month of May 2006. A total of 139 violations were committed (see annex).

These violations are in contravention of the relevant Security Council resolutions, the latest of which is resolution 1655 (2006), and in defiance of your repeated calls for their cessation, most recently in your report S/2006/26 of 18 January 2006. Lebanon counts on the United Nations to compel Israel to desist from such violations, which constitute a threat to international peace and security, and holds Israel responsible for any consequences to which its actions may give rise.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 14, "The situation in the Middle East", and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Caroline **Ziadeh**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

06-37714 (E) 070606 070606

Annex to the letter dated 5 June 2006 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statistical table showing Israeli violations of Lebanese sovereignty during May 2006

Air violations				*Sea violations*	*Land violations*			*Total violations*
					Military acts of aggression	*Field violations*	*Breaches*	
Military jet	Reconnaissance	Helicopter	Total	Crossing of territorial waters, artillery fire and shooting of flares and firebombs over territorial waters	Air raids, artillery shelling, shelling of military positions and important posts, attacks on and killing of civilians	Gunfire, launching of firebombs, dropping of artillery missiles, infiltration and crossing of international borders	Threats and displaying of weapons, bulldozing of soil, placing of barbed wire and setting up of installations inside Lebanese territory	
31	**37**	**15**	**83**	**19**	**6**	**16**	**15**	**139**

United Nations A/60/874

General Assembly

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5 June 2006

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Sixtieth session
Agenda item 124
Programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

Capital master plan: business analysis on the possibility of constructing a new permanent building on the North Lawn

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

In paragraph 7 of its resolution 60/256 of 8 May 2006, the General Assembly recalled paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/60/7/Add.12) and requested the Secretary-General to present a more detailed business analysis on the possibility of constructing a new permanent building on the North Lawn by the second part of its resumed sixtieth session.

The present report is submitted in response to that request, and an initial analysis has been conducted which indicates a cost advantage in the long term. The Secretary-General recommends that the matter be considered independently from the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters buildings, given the urgency of that renovation.

A decision of the General Assembly on the implementation of the capital master plan and a strategy as set out in the report of the Secretary-General (A/60/550 and Corr.1 and 2 and Add.1) will be required. It should be noted that the Secretary-General has recommended the adoption of a phased approach (strategy IV).

06-37585 (E) 070606

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 60/256 of 8 May 2006, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to present a more detailed business analysis on the possibility of constructing a new permanent building on the North Lawn by the second part of its resumed sixtieth session.

2. In preparing the business analysis, the assistance of an outside consultant experienced in the New York City real estate market was sought, along with that of the consulting firm retained by the capital master plan project as the programme manager.

3. The consultants were requested to estimate the costs of constructing a new permanent building on the North Lawn based on two scenarios in terms of date of occupancy of the building:

(a) Estimated occupancy date of 2015, that is, completion of a new permanent building in eight years based on a realistic assessment of the earliest possible date of occupancy, assuming timely approvals of the feasibility, planning, design and construction process;[1]

(b) Estimated occupancy date of 2023, which is the expiry date of the long-term lease agreements between the United Nations and the United Nations Development Corporation (UNDC) for the UNDC-1 and UNDC-2 buildings.

4. The consultants were also requested to identify savings that would arise in terms of rent that would not have to be paid for the UNDC buildings or other commercially leased office space occupied by the United Nations system.

II. Assumptions used in the business analysis

5. The following assumptions were used in the preparation of the business analysis:

(a) The proposed new permanent building on the North Lawn is regarded as part of the long-term direction of the United Nations system in New York and is not being considered for temporary occupancy by Secretariat staff during the capital master plan renovation (i.e., as a swing space building);[2]

(b) The proposed building on the North Lawn is assumed to be a 900,000 "rentable" square foot, standard office building. No provision has been made for any additional requirements for the United Nations, which could be identified in a more comprehensive feasibility study;

(c) To determine the savings in rent, the following assumptions were made regarding lease renewal rates after the expiration of the current leases:

[1] It is assumed that the renovation of the United Nations Headquarters buildings would have no impact on this business analysis.

[2] The cost of potential delay to the start of the renovation of the Secretariat building has not been included in the analysis. That is, this assumption differs from strategy III in A/60/550, whereby a permanent building would be constructed before renovation of the Secretariat building.

(i) For UNDC-1 and UNDC-2: a market base rent of $77 per square foot effective on 1 April 2023[3] is assumed, with a 10 per cent increase every five years thereafter;

(ii) For the FF building,[4] a base rent of $45 per square foot in 2006 is assumed, with a 3 per cent increase per year until the expiration of the lease of each respective floor, and a 10 per cent rent step-up every five years thereafter;

(d) It has been assumed that the overall cost of the project to construct a building on the North Lawn would be met by assessments on Member States at the time of construction. Therefore, no allowance has been made in the analysis in terms of either short-term financing for construction or long-term financing for the building.

III. Business analysis

6. The following estimated total project cost of constructing a permanent office building on the North Lawn is based on the projected occupancy date (includes all costs related to construction, contingencies, professional fees, management and escalation):

2015	$626.8 million
2023	$939.0 million

7. Table 1 shows the leased space occupied by the United Nations system in New York as at May 2006.

Table 1
Leased space of the United Nations system in New York

Location	*Organization*	*Gross square feet*
UNDC-1	UN, UNDP	339 143
UNDC-2	UN, UNDP	331 179
UNDC-3	UNICEF	180 000
FF Building	UN, UNDP	319 024
Nigeria House	UNDP	6 856
Alcoa Building	UN	30 845
JFK cargo space	UN	200
Falchi ARMS Warehouse, Long Island City	UN	29 563
Uganda House	UN, UNDP, UNJSPF	25 529
1 Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza	UNJSPF	72 516
Daily News Building	UN, UNFPA	116 194
825 Third Ave.	UN	10 366
633 Third Ave.	UNICEF	115 459

[3] 2023 is the year that the current favourable rent levels expire.
[4] The FF building is located at 304 East 45th Street.

Location	*Organization*	*Gross square feet*[a]
820 Second Ave.	UNFPA	10 600
Chrysler Building[b]	UNOPS	80 000
Total		**1 667 474**

[a] Leased space includes office and non-office space, such as archive and warehouse storage space.

[b] UNOPS will vacate the Chrysler Building by the end of 2006 and the office space will be subleased to a non-United Nations entity.

8. Of that total leased space, the office space that could be accommodated in the new permanent building would be 900,000 square feet. Table 2 shows the space occupied by the various parts of the United Nations system in the UNDC-1, UNDC-2 and FF buildings proposed to be accommodated in the new permanent building and forms the basis of the lease-avoidance calculation.

Table 2
Current leased space to be accommodated in the new building
(In rentable square feet)

UNDC-1	339 143
UNDC-2	320 999
FF building	239 858
Total	**900 000**

9. Based on the assumptions for future rental costs detailed in paragraph 5 (c) above, the projected lease cost for the UNDC-1, UNDC-2 and FF buildings that would be avoided is set out below.

A. Total occupancy cost comparisons

10. The business analysis covers the 30-year period from 2015 to 2045. Table 3 shows a comparative summary of the total occupancy costs for the business analysis period for three possible scenarios on a nominal and net present value basis. It should be noted that although scenario 3 takes full advantage of the existing low-cost leases in UNDC-1 and UNDC-2, it becomes more expensive than scenario 2 when the projected cost escalation of the new building, due to the later construction start date, is taken into account.

Table 3
Comparison of total occupancy costs on a nominal and net present value basis (2015-2045)
(Millions of United States dollars)

	Nominal	*Net present value*
Scenario 1: status quo — continue leasing space in the UNDC-1, UNDC-2 and FF buildings	2 375	1 060
Scenario 2: build/consolidate into the new building on the North Lawn in 2015[a]	1 060	830
Scenario 3: build/consolidate into the new building on the North Lawn in 2023[b]	1 630	1 040

[a] Includes project cost for the new building on the North Lawn, as well as operating cost for the new building from 2015 to 2045.
[b] Includes base rent and operating costs for UNDC-1, UNDC-2 and FF buildings from 2015 to 2023; project cost for the new building, which is assumed to be available for occupancy in 2023; and operating cost for the new building from 2023 to 2045.

11. The break-even point, or the number of years required from occupancy to the point where the savings from avoided lease costs equal the cost of constructing the building, was also analysed and detailed in tables 4 and 5. The graphic analysis is shown in annexes I and II to the present report.

B. Occupancy in 2015

12. As the existing leases for UNDC-1 and UNDC-2 expire in 2023, the least-cost calculation is separated into two parts: (a) the lease costs avoided during the period from 2015 to 2023 and (b) the lease costs avoided after 2023.

13. The total projected avoided lease cost for the period from 2015 to 2023 is $255 million, calculated as follows:

(Millions of United States dollars)

Total lease cost for UNDC-1, UNDC-2 and FF buildings, including operating cost	336
Less total projected operating cost of new building on the North Lawn	81
Total projected avoided lease cost (2015-2023)	**255**

14. The projected average annual avoided lease cost for the period from 2023 to 2029 is $60 million, calculated as follows:

(Millions of United States dollars)

Projected average annual lease cost for UNDC-1, UNDC-2 and FF buildings, including operating cost	73
Less projected average annual operating cost of new building on the North Lawn	13
Projected average annual avoided lease cost (2023-2029)	**60**

15. Table 4 shows the business case for construction of a new building on the North Lawn with an occupancy date of 2015, on both a nominal and a net present value basis.

Table 4
Break-even analysis, assuming an occupancy date of 2015

Total cost of new building	$627 million
Area	900 000 square feet
Project cost per square foot	$696.47
Total projected avoided lease costs, 2015-2023 (8 years)	$255 million
Balance of capital costs (representing the difference between the cost of the new building and the avoided lease costs from 2015 to 2023)	$372 million
Projected average annual avoided lease cost, 2023-2029	$60 million
Number of years to recover the balance of capital costs	6.2 years
Break-even period — nominal basis (8 years + 6.2 years)	14.2 years
Break-even period — net present value basis, assuming 5 per cent discount rate	21.1 years

C. Occupancy in 2023

16. The projected average annual avoided lease cost for the period from 2023 to 2037 is $67 million, calculated as follows:

(Millions of United States dollars)

Projected average annual lease cost for UNDC-1, UNDC-2 and FF buildings, including operating cost	81
Less projected average annual operating cost of new building on the North Lawn	14
Projected average annual avoided lease cost (2023-2037)	**67**

17. Table 5 shows the business case for construction of a new building on the North Lawn with an occupancy date of 2023 on both a nominal and a net present value basis.

Table 5
Break-even analysis, assuming an occupancy date of 2023

Total cost of new building	$939 million
Area	900 000 square feet
Project cost per square foot	$1 043.28
Projected average annual avoided lease costs, 2023-2037	$67 million
Number of years to break even	14.0 years
Break-even period — nominal basis	14.0 years
Break-even period — net present value basis, assuming 5 per cent discount rate	21.3 years

IV. Other factors to be considered

18. The request by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/256 was for a detailed business analysis to be carried out on the possibility of constructing a new permanent building on the North Lawn. However, it should be noted that there are a number of other factors that should be considered in a more comprehensive feasibility study that have not been included in the present business analysis. These factors include:

(a) **Security**. No consideration has been given to the security advantages or disadvantages and implications that could arise from the construction of a 900,000-square-foot consolidation building on the North Lawn;

(b) **Architectural issues**. The addition of a 900,000-square-foot architectural element on the North Lawn would raise a number of significant issues related to the historical and architectural preservation of the United Nations complex. These factors would need to be considered in any comprehensive feasibility study required of the proposed construction of a building on the North Lawn;

(c) **Host City and community issues**. An official dialogue has not been entered into with the City of New York and the local community on the proposed building on the North Lawn.

V. Conclusions

19. The analysis on the potential benefits of a proposed permanent building on the North Lawn indicates that there would be commercial advantages for the United Nations derived from constructing and owning a building as compared to long-term leasing based on the assumptions contained in paragraph 5.

20. However, the analysis, as requested by the General Assembly, is limited to reviewing the economic aspects of the proposed building on the North Lawn. It does

not take account the factors listed in paragraph 18. Should the Assembly decide to proceed with a comprehensive feasibility study of the proposed construction of a building on the North Lawn, the cost of such a study is estimated at 1 per cent of the cost of construction and would require a period of at least one year to complete.

21. In order not to exacerbate the further deterioration of the Headquarters buildings, it is considered that any decision by the General Assembly to proceed with a comprehensive feasibility study should be made independently of the decision regarding the strategy on the capital master plan.

VI. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

22. **The Secretary-General recommends that the General Assembly:**

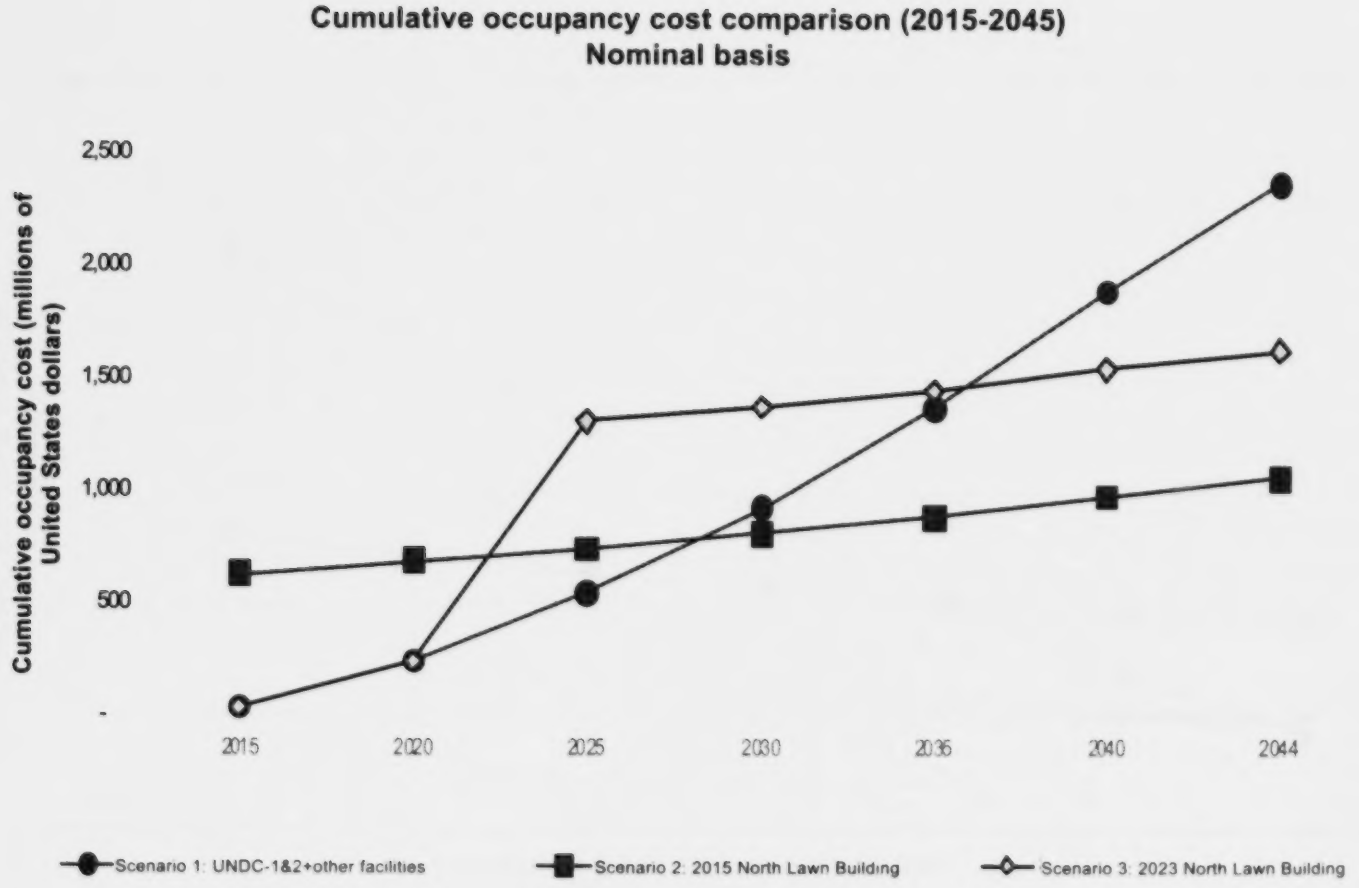
(a) **Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the business analysis on the possibility of constructing a new permanent building on the North Lawn;**

(b) **Decide to continue with the capital master plan for the Headquarters buildings;**

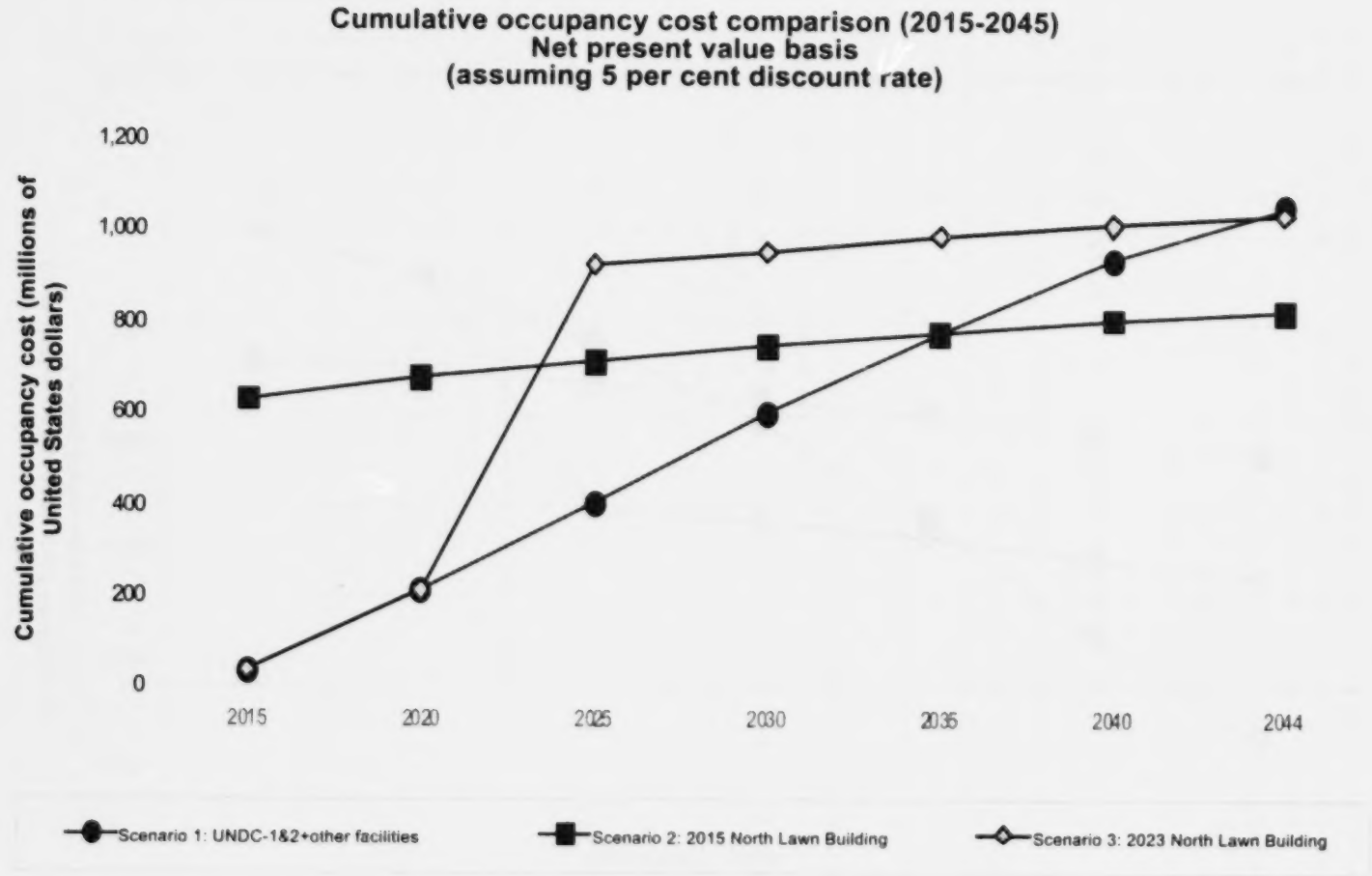
(c) **Approve the recommended strategy for implementation of the capital master plan (strategy IV: phased approach);**

(d) **Decide to revert to the consideration for the need of the comprehensive feasibility study at its sixty-first session and request the Secretary-General to report to it on the proposed terms of reference for such a study.**

Annex I


Cumulative occupancy cost comparison (2015-2045)
Nominal basis
Cumulative occupancy cost (millions of United States dollars)
2,500
2,000
1,500
1,000
500
-
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2044
Scenario 1: UNDC-1&2+other facilities
Scenario 2: 2015 North Lawn Building
Scenario 3: 2023 North Lawn Building

Annex II


Cumulative occupancy cost comparison (2015-2045)
Net present value basis
(assuming 5 per cent discount rate)
Cumulative occupancy cost (millions of United States dollars)
1,200
1,000
800
600
400
200
0
2015
2020
2025
2030
2035
2040
2044
Scenario 1: UNDC-1&2+other facilities
Scenario 2: 2015 North Lawn Building
Scenario 3: 2023 North Lawn Building

United Nations A/60/875–S/2006/364

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Sixtieth session

Agenda items 10, 12, 32, 40, 43, 71, 97 (u) and 108

Support by the United Nations system of the efforts of Governments to promote and consolidate new or restored democracies

Prevention of armed conflict

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Culture of peace

Human rights questions

General and complete disarmament: confidence-building measures in the regional and subregional context

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixty-first year

Letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

We have the honour to transmit herewith the Kyiv Declaration on the establishment of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development — GUAM (ODED-GUAM) (see annex I), a GUAM Summit communiqué (see annex II) and the Joint Declaration of the Heads of State of ODED-GUAM on the issue of conflict settlement (see annex III), adopted by the Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine at the GUAM Summit held in Kyiv on 23 May 2006.

06-37642 (E) 160606

We should be grateful if the present letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 10, 12, 32, 40, 43, 71, 97 (u) and 108 of the agenda of its sixtieth session, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Valeriy **Kuchinsky**
Permanent Representative of Ukraine

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Azerbaijan

(*Signed*) Revaz **Adamia**
Permanent Representative of Georgia

(*Signed*) Vsevolod **Grigore**
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova

Annex I to the letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

KYIV DECLARATION ON ESTABLISHMENT OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT - GUAM

The Heads of State of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine,

Being guided by the norms and principles of international law, the provisions enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the fundamental documents of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe and also, the Yalta Charter and the Chisinau Declaration of the GUAM,

Reasserting the dedication to democratic values, full respect for human rights and freedoms, supremacy of the rule of law, both in internal and external affairs, the principles of equality, mutual respect and mutually beneficial cooperation,

Emphasizing common aspiration to expedite advancement toward European integration,

Expressing our deep concern with regard to continuing conflicts and the growing threat to security, stemming out from international terrorism, aggressive separatism and extremism and the related negative phenomena,

Reaffirming commitment to contribute to strengthening the international peace, security and stability on the basis of respect of the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of the States,

Stressing the significance of deepening economic cooperation, inter alia in the spheres of energy, transport and trade to promote further development and improvement of well-being of their nations,

Highly valuing the spiritual and cultural heritage of people of their states and expressing interest to develop cooperation in humanitarian sphere, particularly in the areas of culture, science, education, healthcare, youth exchange, tourism and sports,

Emphasizing the growing role of regional cooperation in pan-European processes;

1. Declare establishment of an International Regional Organization – "Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM" (hereinafter referred to as GUAM) with Secretariat in Kyiv.

2. Stress that GUAM's activities are aimed at the enhancement of democracy, adherence to the rule of law, respect for fundamental human rights and freedoms, economic development of States and assuring of security and stability.

3. Reaffirm the need to enhance action to support sustainable development of the GUAM States through dynamic economic growth, social concord and protection of the environment.

4. Declare their intention to cooperate actively in settlement of unresolved conflicts in a number of GUAM States that undermine sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of those States, impeding the full-scale implementation of democratic reforms and economic development of the region, negatively impact European integration processes and challenge the world community.

5. Express their readiness to further enhance cooperation in combating international terrorism, extremism and aggressive separatism and other related negative phenomena.

6. Stand for deepening of economic, commercial and transport cooperation of the GUAM States and declare the beginning of the implementation of the Free Trade Area Agreement.

7. Declare on inadmissibility of the economic pressure and monopolization of energy market, and emphasize the need to activize efforts to ensure energy security, including by means of diversifying routes of transportation of energy resources from Central Asia and Caspian regions to the European market.

8. Support utmost use of the international transit capacity of the GUAM States to ensure also sustainable supply of energy resources.

9. Express readiness to develop cooperation in the humanitarian sphere, particularly in the areas of culture, science, education, healthcare, youth exchange, tourism and sports.

10. Reaffirm the strive of the GUAM States to deepen European integration and enhance relations with the European Union and NATO.

11. Emphasize willingness of the GUAM States to further develop partnership relations with the United States of America and other States and organizations, in particular, to implement joint projects.

12. Declare that the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM is open for accession of other States which share its goals and principles.

Kyiv, 23 May 2006

Annex II to the letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

GUAM SUMMIT COMMUNIQUÉ

23 May 2006, Kyiv

On 23 May 2006 Presidents of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine took part at the GUAM Summit in Kyiv (Ukraine). Presidents of Lithuania and Poland, Vice-President of Bulgaria, and high-level representatives of Romania, Kazakhstan, the USA and also, of international organizations, such as the OSCE, BSEC and diplomatic missions, participated in the Summit as guests.

The Heads of State expressed gratitude to President Vladimir Voronin for the successful chairmanship of Moldova in the GUAM during the preceding period. In accordance with the decision of the Summit, Ukraine has taken over the chairmanship.

The Heads of GUAM States reviewed the implementation of the decisions adopted at the 2005 Chisinau Summit, perspectives of development of interaction in the context of ensuring democracy, stability and development in the region, cooperation in the spheres of economy, energy, trade, transport and security, and also, development of cooperation with other States and international organizations.

The Heads of GUAM States emphasized with satisfaction that over the last year the necessary mechanisms have been created to ensure successful cooperation, thus enabling to step into a new stage of cooperation with involvement of other states and international organizations. They reaffirmed determination of their countries to take consistent and consolidated efforts to implement decisions of the Chisinau Declaration "In the name of democracy, stability and development".

The Heads of State noted the high level of cooperation within the Parliamentary Assembly of GUAM and called the Assembly to actively contribute to the institutional consolidation of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Cooperation - GUAM.

They stressed importance of regular meetings of the secretaries of councils of national security and defense with the purpose of preparation of proposals for cooperation in the spheres of security and economy.

The participants of the Summit paid special attention to challenges and threats of modern time: international terrorism, aggressive separatism and extremism, and transnational organized crime.

It was emphasized that these threats, as well as unresolved conflicts and illegal presence of foreign troops and armaments in GUAM States are recognized as main obstacles on the way to full-scale democratic transformations and economic development in the region.

The participants of the meeting reviewed the processes of settlement of conflicts in GUAM States since the time of the Chisinau Summit.

They noticed positive shifts in the implementation of step-by-step Plan of settlement of the Transnistrian conflict "To settlement through democracy", presented at the Chisinau Summit, including continuation of negotiation process with participation of USA and EU. They positively assessed the EU Mission activities related to the provision of assistance on the Ukrainian-Moldovan state border.

The Heads of State gave high appraisal and stressed the necessity to implement the Plan of peaceful settlement of the conflict in Tskhinvali region/South Osetia, Georgia, presented by Georgia and supported by the OSCE Council of Ministers in Ljubljana on 5 December 2005. Signing of the agreements between Georgia and the Russian Federation on the terms of withdrawal of the Russian military bases and transit of the armaments subject to withdrawal was mentioned with satisfaction.

The Heads of State called for implementation of the UNSC resolutions regarding the conflict in and around the Nagorny Karabakh region of the Republic of Azerbaijan and of the principles of settlement of this conflict, elaborated at the OSCE Lisbon Summit. A hope for effective continuation of the negotiation process based on the above mentioned documents was expressed.

The Heads of State decided to enhance interaction with the view to intensify the processes of settlement of conflicts and adopted a Joint Declaration on these issues.

The participants of the Summit highly assessed the level of interaction in combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous types of crimes. They welcomed the Joint Statement of the law enforcement authorities of the GUAM Member States as a result of the meeting in Kyiv on 22 May 2006, and signing by the Heads of Border Services of the Protocol Concerning Cooperation Between Operation Bodies of Border Services of the GUAM States in the framework of the Summit.

The Heads of State welcomed the start of implementation of the Trade and Transport Facilitation Project (TTFP) and the establishment of the Virtual Center for combating terrorism and the Interstate Information Management System (VC/IIMS) Project, implemented with support of a Euroatlantic Advisory Team and the SECI Center. They also welcome the beginning of implementation of the Agreement on Free Trade Area.

The Heads of State expressed their appreciation to the US Government for effective assistance in implementation of the said projects and other programs within the GUAM. They welcomed adoption of the GUAM-United States Joint Statement at the Summit and pointed out the necessity to interact in the implementation of these projects.

The importance of development of mutually beneficial contacts between GUAM and the European Union, and also, with regional organizations, programs and initiatives, such as the BSEC, the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe, the Visegrad Group, the South Eastern European Cooperative Initiative (SECI) and others, was stressed.

The perspective of further cooperation of GUAM States in the UN and OSCE was underlined, and necessity to use this experience in other international organizations was emphasized. They welcomed adoption of GUAM action plans for cooperation within the UN and OSCE.

The Heads of State underscored the importance of development of cooperation in the humanitarian sphere, including culture, education, health care, youth exchange, tourism and sports. They also welcomed signing of the Agreement between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs of the GUAM States for training of diplomatic representatives.

Following their decisions, adopted at the Chisinau Summit, the GUAM Heads of State declared the establishment of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM and signed its Charter.

The Heads of State expressed their confidence that the establishment of the Organization for Democracy and Economic Development – GUAM will ensure achievement of the set purposes and enable to deepen and enhance cooperation of its Member States.

They stressed that the priorities of the future Organization shall be strengthening of the values of democracy, the rule of law, human rights and freedoms, stability and security, combating international terrorism, aggressive separatism, extremism and transnational organized crime, deepening of the European integration and achievement of sustainable development and well-being of their peoples.

The Heads of State particularly emphasized that GUAM is open organization, and any state, sharing its purposes and principles, may join it. They also adopted the Decision concerning the GUAM's partnership with the interested states and international organizations, and approved the relevant provisions.

Annex III to the letter dated 24 May 2006 from the Permanent Representatives of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE HEADS OF STATE OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR DEMOCRACY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – GUAM ON THE ISSUE OF CONFLICT SETTLEMENT

The Heads of State of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine,

Guided by the purposes and principles, enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, universally recognized norms and principles of international law, provisions of the fundamental documents of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Yalta Charter and the Chisinau and the Kyiv Declarations of GUAM,

Proceeding from adherence to democratic values and aspirations advance further on the way to European and Euroatlantic integration,

Emphasizing the ever growing role of regional cooperation based on mutual respect of the sovereign rights of the states in Pan-European integration processes,

Stressing that such cooperation facilitates advancement of democracy, strengthening of regional and international security and deepening of economic and commercial ties,

Reaffirming the necessity to respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders of states, as one of the pillars of maintenance of international security,

Reaffirming also the necessity to develop democracy and respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms, including persons belonging to national or ethnic minorities, with the purposes of maintaining peace and security, strengthening the spirit of tolerance, ascertaining values of cultural diversity and peaceful co-existence of various ethnic communities within the internationally recognized borders of states,

Recognizing that unresolved conflicts and illegal military presence on the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Georgia and the Republic of Moldova undermine the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of these states, impede implementation of full-scale democratic reforms and achievement of sustainable development, jeopardize regional security, negatively impact pan-European integration processes and challenge the entire international community,

Expressing deep concern with regard to increasing security threats emerging from conflict zones, including international terrorism, aggressive separatism, extremism, organized crime and other related dangerous phenomena,

Being deeply concerned of continuing people's sufferings resulting from conflicts and their destructive consequences,

Drawing attention of the international community to the need of conflict-affected states for assistance in restoration of the infrastructure destroyed by military action,

Reaffirming that the root causes of conflicts are multi-faceted by their character and therefore, require comprehensive, complex and stepwise approach to their settlement,

Acknowledging the necessity to intensify conflict settlement efforts and calling upon the states and international and regional arrangements and institutions to further facilitate, within their competence, the processes of settlement of conflicts in the GUAM area,

1. Declare that settlement of conflicts on the territories of the GUAM States shall be carried out exclusively on the basis of respect to sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of internationally recognized borders of these states, and is one of the priority objectives of cooperation within GUAM.

2. Stress that the territory of a state may not be a subject of acquisition or military occupation, resulting from the threat or use of force in breach of the relevant norms of international law. No territorial acquisitions and the resulting self-declared entities may be recognized as legal under any circumstances whatsoever.

3. Remind in this regard about the obligation of states of non-interference with the affairs of any other state and non-exertion of military, political, economic or any other pressure thereupon.

4. Underscore the lack of prospects and malignancy of separatism and disintegration, the incompatibility of the use of force and the practice of ethnic cleansing and territorial seizures with the universal and European values, the principles and ideals of peace, democracy, stability and regional cooperation.

5. Stress in this context the importance of consolidation of efforts of the GUAM States and the international community to settle conflicts on their territories by means of re-integration of uncontrolled territories into the states that they are part of, return of forcibly displaced population to the areas of permanent residency and ensuring peaceful coexistence of various ethnic groups within the internationally recognized borders of the states, development of civil society, restoration of destroyed infrastructure on these territories, and also, use of communications to the benefit of all parties.

6. Especially emphasize the importance of demilitarization of conflict zones and establishment of security in these zones with the help of multinational peacemaking forces deployed therein under UN or OSCE auspices for providing conditions for return of population and peaceful coexistence of ethnic communities.

7. Believe that the status of self-rule for the communities constituting the population of uncontrolled territories that will create the necessary conditions for effective exercise of their rights to equal participation in administration of state affairs, including through formation of legitimate regional authorities at all levels, can be determined exclusively within the legal and democratic process.

8. Welcome the efforts of international community and stress the importance of providing support to GUAM States in the development and implementation of a comprehensive and consistent strategy for conflict settlement based on the above mentioned principles, including short-term and long-term measures aimed at the achievement and maintenance of lasting peace, security and sustainable development.

9. Entrust the Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs with the task to develop concrete measures and steps with the purpose of implementation of provisions of this Declaration.

Kyiv, 23 May 2006

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Agenda item 97 (t)
General and complete disarmament: the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Letter dated 25 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour, in my capacity as representative of the host country of the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean States for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in Antigua, Guatemala, from 2 to 4 May 2006, to attach herewith the text of the Declaration of Antigua, Guatemala, which was adopted by consensus (see annex).

Since this is an important contribution from the Latin American and Caribbean region, I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 97 (t).

(*Signed*) Jorge **Skinner-Klée**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

06-37648 (E) 200606 210606

Annex to the letter dated 25 May 2006 from the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Antigua, Guatemala, Declaration of the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean States for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

[Original: English and Spanish]

From 2-4 May 2006, representatives of the Latin American and Caribbean States gathered in La Antigua, Guatemala, to seek a common approach to contribute a regional perspective to the work of the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, hereinafter referred to as the Review Conference, to be held in New York, from 26 June-7 July 2006, so that it may effectively and comprehensively help to address the problems arising from the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in all its aspects.

THE LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN STATES

REAFFIRMING the importance of a common approach to the Review Conference, taking into account the specific needs, progress and experience in individual countries, sub-regions and regions;

REAFFIRMING our strong commitment to the basic norms of International Law and the main principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations: sovereign equality of States; the peaceful resolution of disputes; the prohibition of the use or threat of use of force; and non-intervention in the internal affairs of States[1];

REAFFIRMING the importance of Article 51 of the United Nations Charter and *AGREEING* that the outcome of the Review Conference shall not undermine in any way their inherent right to self-defence, which implies that States also have the right to acquire arms with which to defend themselves;

REAFFIRMING ALSO the contents of the Brasilia Declaration adopted by consensus on 24 November 2000 by the Latin American and Caribbean States, at the Itamaraty Palace in Brazil, with the objective of providing the regional perspective to the work of the United Nations

[1] In relation to *PP2*, the Delegation of Uruguay recalls the relevance of mentioning the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS)/ The Republic of El Salvador expresses its concern that the reference in *PP2* to the Organization of American States (OAS) has been omitted.

Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, convened in New York from 9-20 July 2001;

REAFFIRMING an unshakeable will for the effective implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, hereinafter referred to as Programme of Action;

TAKING NOTE with satisfaction of the national reports on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action presented on a voluntary basis by States of the region and highlighting their commitment to the creation of national coordination mechanisms;

STRESSING the importance of Cooperation and International Assistance in the implementation of the Programme of Action and EXPRESSING their concern at the lack of progress in the implementation of the commitments in the areas of Cooperation and International Assistance in the Program of Action;

REAFFIRMING the importance of adopting measures to increase international cooperation in the prevention, combating and eradication of illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons;

RECOGNIZING that among various factors, the laxity or absence of national, regional and international regulations on the diversion of legally acquired and/or sold small arms and light weapons to the illicit market also has a subsequent impact on civilian deaths and victim toll, accidental or criminal, and *HIGHLIGHTING* the need to put in place effective measures to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

RECOGNIZING that one aspect requiring continued attention is the promotion of measures, where appropriate and on a voluntary basis, to enhance transparency with a view to fully implementing the Programme of Action;

RECALLING that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the region is mainly related to drug trafficking, terrorism, trans-national organized crime, mercenary activities and other criminal acts and conduct. Crime prevention must thus be an integral part of the approach to combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons[2];

AGREEING on the importance of States to consider adherence to the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition, which complements the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;

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[2] The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses the following reservations: "The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that the direct link between illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and other criminal activities referred to in *PP11* attempts the principle of presumption of innocence of the accused, when attributing responsibilities to him regarding other crimes that have not been proven. This violates the fundamental norms of due process. For Venezuela, such an approach is not acceptable."

APPLAUDING the ratification by nearly all the Members of the Organization of American States of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials, and its Model Regulations, and *COMMEND* the work of the CIFTA-CICAD Group of Experts to prepare Model Legislation in the Areas Covered by the CIFTA that will become a useful tool for the full implementation at the national level of the Convention and calls upon American States that have not done so to ratify the Convention as a matter of priority;

RECOGNIZING the challenges posed by the increased illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, ammunition and explosives to the economic and social development of States, the maintenance of security of individual States and on the promotion and protection of all human rights[3];

TAKING NOTE of the important work carried out by the United Nations General Assembly, through the adoption of resolutions related to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

TAKING NOTE of the work of the Security Council as complementary to the main role of the General Assembly, in providing, within its mandate, an opportunity to strengthen efforts by the international community and the United Nations system to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

ACKNOWLEDGING the work carried out in relation to prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the region by hemispheric and sub-regional intergovernmental organizations[4];

RECOGNIZING AND ENCOURAGING the efforts of national parliaments in the region to incorporate, as appropriate, relevant international legally-binding instruments against the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, into domestic legislation and to improve controls on the transfer and use of firearms, ammunition and explosives;

BEARING in mind paragraph 21 of the preambular section of the Programme of Action and *RECOGNIZING* the need for further development of the recommendations contained in paragraphs 2, 11, 12, 13 and 14 of Chapter II of that Programme with regard to the issue of transfers, and recognizing also the need for objective, balanced, common, transparent, multilaterally agreed and non discriminatory criteria for arms transfers, based on existing legal obligations and express prohibitions[5];

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[3] The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses the following reservations: "The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that the mandate of the Review Conference is to prevent, combat and eradicate trafficking of small arms and light weapons. Therefore, Venezuela wishes to point out that mention of negative impact on human rights can only be attributed to illegal activities undertaken by entities, groups and persons outside the law, and not to the legal arms between States."

[4] The Republic of El Salvador expresses its concern that the reference in *PP17* to the Organization of American States (OAS) and to the Central American Integration System (CAIS) has been omitted.

[5] The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses the following reservations: "The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that the scope of *PP19* under no circumstances impairs the sovereign rights of States to acquire weapons to meet their legitimate security and

RECOGNIZING that efforts related to the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons are without prejudice to the priorities accorded to nuclear disarmament, weapons of mass destruction and conventional disarmament[6];

STRESSING the importance of work carried out by civil society in a responsible manner in assisting Member States, at their request, in the implementation of the Programme of Action;

ACKNOWLEDGING that the Review Conference provides a promising opportunity to consider, if necessary, further steps to advance in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the fight against criminal activities related to the illicit trade of arms and bring benefits in terms of economic and social development, and national, regional and international stability;

THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN STATES

RECALL that the United Nations General Assembly Resolution 60/81 establishes, *inter alia*, that the objective of the Review Conference is to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action in order to set the agenda for tackling problems in the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons by the international community beyond 2006 and *SUGGEST* that the review may be conducted taking into account the following;

IDENTIFY the obstacles that hinder the implementation of the Programme of Action and *PROPOSE* mechanisms that allow for surpassing them;

EXCHANGE experiences regarding the implementation of the Programme of Action and the progress achieved;

IDENTIFY steps that will allow for effective action by the international community to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;

TAKE the necessary measures to complement and continue advancing in the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and reaffirm the importance of fulfilling the commitments made by States to adopt the necessary measures at the national, regional and international levels in order to ensure its implementation in the shortest time possible;

COMMIT to implementing the "International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons" and to continue making efforts in order to achieve a legally binding instrument which includes the issue of ammunition;

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defence needs."/The Republic of Cuba wishes to express that analysis of the issue of the control of arms transfers is completely out of the mandate of the Programme of Action and, in consequence, considers that its inclusion in this Declaration is inappropriate.

[6] The Delegation of Uruguay considers that *PP20* shall not be interpreted as affecting the priority assigned to the issue of small arms and light weapons.

RECALL the need to implement the follow-up mechanism of the "International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons" as an integral part of the implementation of the Programme of Action;

RECOGNIZE that the problem of the illicit trade of ammunition is intrinsically linked to the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons;

CALL UPON United Nations Member States to begin a process to study effective ways and means of tackling this problem;

ACKNOWLEDGE that arms transfers through brokers poses the greatest risk for the diversion of small arms and light weapons to the illicit market and to non-authorized purposes or actors;

COMPLEMENT the Programme of Action by adopting measures aimed at regulating brokering activities in small arms and light weapons;

SUPPORT the adoption of a legally binding instrument on illicit brokering and the work of the Group of Governmental Experts;

RECALL once again the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and *AGREE* to complement the Programme of Action with the adoption of common criteria at the international level to provide national authorities with tools to evaluate the authorization of transfers of small arms and light weapons with a view to avoiding their diversion to the illicit market, and to non-authorized uses or users[7];

RECOGNIZE that these common criteria must contain technical and normative aspects, and acknowledge that they need to be objective, non-discriminatory, transparent, adopted at the multilateral level and take into account the particularities of each region. These criteria must also include a clear prohibition to the transfer of small arms and light weapons, understood as import, export and in-transit, which are not expressly authorized by the competent authorities in the country of import, export and in-transit;

ACKNOWLEDGE the need for the Review Conference to call upon States to put in place and/or enforce regulations on the civilian acquisition and possession of small arms and light weapons, with a view to, *inter alia*, preventing the diversion of legally acquired weapons to the illicit market. These measures may include, as appropriate limits on the type and/or quantity of weapons that civilians might acquire and possess, as well as strict licensing, authorization and record-keeping requirements;

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[7] The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela expresses the following reservations: "The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that the scope of *OP13* under no circumstances impairs the sovereign rights of States to acquire weapons to meet their legitimate security and defence needs."

RECALL that the Programme of Action makes reference to the need to adopt national controls on civilian possession and encourage States that have not already done so, to adopt adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to regulate the civilian possession of small arms and light weapons, as well as their use;

INVITE Member States to include in their annual National Reports a reference to the civilian possession regulations in place;

RECALL the contributions made by UN-LiREC and UNDP in providing assistance in the preparation of national reports;

SUGGEST the establishment of a database, within the framework of the Department for Disarmament Affairs, in consultation with United Nations Member States, for publication of best practices on different aspects of the Programme of Action, and call upon Member States in a position to do so, to contribute to such establishment;

CALL UPON UN Member States to identify and adopt, as appropriate, minimum standards for safety and security of stockpiles;

CALL UPON United Nations Member States to fully comply with the provisions contained in Chapter II of the Programme of Action regarding, *inter alia*, stockpile management; destruction of all confiscated, seized or collected small arms and light weapons; establishment of adequate and detailed standards and procedures for security of stocks; and identification and responsible disposal of surplus stocks;

INVITE United Nations Member States to take into account recommendations contained in the Secretary General's Report on Methods for the Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Manual on Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives, published by the Department of Disarmament Affairs;

RECOGNIZE and support the continuation of national and regional activities for the implementation of the Programme of Action undertaken by non-governmental organizations, in particular with regard to public awareness campaigns on combating the illicit traffic of small arms and light weapons;

SUPPORT the strengthening of the capacities of States, upon request, with the objective of enhancing and coordinating national policies to include all aspects relating to the problem of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and improving the implementation of these policies;

UNDERLINE the urgent need for greater international cooperation, including technical and financial assistance, as well as capacity building, in order to support the implementation of the measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as stipulated in the Programme of Action;

URGE increased access to financial and technical resources and the transfer of technology by States in a position to do so, in order to assist interested States, *inter alia*, in the creation and updating of databases for national small arms and light weapons registers;

CALL UPON States and International Organizations, in a position to do so, and upon request of the national competent authorities of the State concerned, to provide cooperation and assistance to contribute to the full implementation of the Programme of Action and to the outcome document to be adopted at the Review Conference of 2006;

SUPPORT the establishment of a permanent trust fund, under the auspices of the United Nations, and on the basis of voluntary contributions, to provide financial assistance and cooperation to facilitate the full implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects;

ACKNOWLEDGE the work carried out by the Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA) through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC), which is making an effective contribution to the implementation of the Programme of Action and *RECOMMEND* the continuation of this important regional platform;

RECOMMEND the establishment of a follow-up mechanism resulting from the Review Conference, in order to periodically review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects, and of the outcome documents adopted at the subsequent Conferences;

HIGHLIGHT the importance of convening a Conference no later than 2011 to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue to be decided by the United Nations General Assembly;

UNDERLINE the importance of convening a meeting of States on a biennial basis to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action;

EXPRESS recognition and gratitude to the Government of the Republic of Guatemala for their initiative and hospitality in the Regional Preparatory Meeting of the Latin American and Caribbean States for the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

EXPRESS recognition and gratitude to the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UN-LiREC); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain for their technical and financial assistance in carrying out the conference.